

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2004/11/30 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100210055-5

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CIA/OCI

/LWHIZWH

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ITEM NO: WH-8

DATE: 21 FEB 79

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

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USSR: MOSCOW HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE OIL CONFERENCE SINCE THE IDEA WAS FIRST PUT FORWARD AND HAS INCREASED ITS CRITICISM AS THE CONFERENCE GOT UNDER WAY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIETS HAVE KEPT THEIR COVERAGE WITHIN BOUNDS--BOTH QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY. THEY HAVE DIRECTED THEIR SHARPEST ATTACKS AGAINST THE OIL COMPANIES RATHER THAN THE US ADMINISTRATION, FOR INSTANCE, AND HAVE DRAWN EXTENSIVELY ON THE COMMENTARIES OF OTHER NATIONS OPPOSED TO THE CONFERENCE.

4 TO CARRY FAVOR WITH THE ARABS, THE SOVIETS HAVE SOUGHT  
3 TO PLAY UPON PRODUCING-COUNTRY FEARS OF A US-BACKED "OIL CARTEL."  
2 TO EXPLOIT WESTERN DIFFERENCES, THE SOVIETS HAVE ARGUED THAT  
1 WASHINGTON IS TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC

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SITUATION AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS ALLIES.

LIBYA: LIBYAN MEDIA HAVE BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR CRITICISM OF THE CONFERENCE. A POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ON THE TRIPOLI DOMESTIC RADIO SERVICE DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS A "US TRAP TO CONSECRATE AMERICAN CUSTODIANSHIP OF EUROPE ON THE ONE HAND AND INTERNATIONALIZE OIL ON THE OTHER THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE." HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE CONFERENCE AS AN ACT OF CAPITALIST AGGRESSION DIRECTED AGAINST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND SAID THAT THE BURDEN OF CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THIS MOVE FALLS ON LIBYA. HE CONCLUDED WITH A CALL TO ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO OPPOSE THE "BLATANT IMPERIALIST ONSLAUGHT."

TRIPOLI INTERNATIONAL RADIO COMMENTED ALONG THE SAME LINES, THOUGH IN A SLIGHTLY MORE SUBDUED TONE. IT CHARGED THAT THE US WAS TRYING TO ORDER THE EUROPEANS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE ARAB STATES TO END THEIR OIL EMBARGO. THE REASONS FOR THE EMBARGO ARE STILL VALID, IT SAID, AND WILL REMAIN SO UNTIL THE "ZIONIST ENEMY" DISAPPEARS.

THE LEADING TRIPOLI NEWSPAPER SAID ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT BY

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CALLING THE CONFERENCE, THE US WAS TRYING TO STRIKE AT THE JOINT INTERESTS OF BOTH EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES. THE MAIN THRUST OF THE ARTICLE WAS THAT THE EUROPEANS WOULD JEOPARDIZE THEIR OWN INTERESTS IF THEY FOLLOWED THE US LEAD ON THE OIL QUESTION. A PREVIOUS ARTICLE IN THE SAME PAPER SPECULATED THAT US OBJECTIVES AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE TO CUT OFF WHEAT SUPPLIES TO THE ARABS, TO IMPOSE AN EMBARGO ON TECHNICAL, MILITARY AND FINANCIAL ASSETS DESTINED FOR THE ARABS, AND TO OCCUPY OIL SOURCES BY ARMED AGGRESSION.

THE LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 23 THAT LIBYA WOULD CONSIDER THE MEETING A CASE OF INTERVENTION IN ITS DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. SUBSEQUENT LIBYAN COMMENT APPEARS TO REFLECT THIS OFFICIAL POSITION.

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3 EGYPT: CAIRO RADIO BROADCAST A MILDLY WORDED COMMENTARY  
2 ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 30. ALTHOUGH  
1 INDIRECTLY CRITICAL, THE COMMENTARY WAS FOR THE MOST PART

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NONCOMMITAL. QUOTING "OIL CIRCLES," THE COMMENTARY SAYS THAT THE CHIEF US AIM IS TO "DEFEND THE US OIL COMPANIES AND THEIR ROLE AS A MEDIUM BETWEEN THE EXPORTING AND THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES." FOR THIS REASON, THE COMMENTARY CLAIMS, THE US OPPOSES BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EUROPEAN OIL PRODUCING STATES WHICH ALLOW THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO DISPOSE OF THEIR OIL DIRECTLY. ALTHOUGH THESE STATEMENTS ARE COUNCHED IN A SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE CONTEXT, THE EDITORIAL OFFERS NO SPECIFIC NEGATIVE COMMENT ON THE ALLEGED US VIEWS.

ALGERIA: THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE COMMENT IN ALGERIAN MEDIA ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WASHINGTON OIL CONFERENCE. THE DOMESTIC RADIO SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 1980 SAID THAT WASHINGTON IS ENGAGED IN A "POISONOUS CAMPAIGN TO SECURE SOME ARAB CONCESSIONS," BUT ADDED OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE INDECISIVE. SECRETARY KISSINGER CAME UNDER ATTACK IN THE PRESS FOR ALLEGED BLACKMAIL AGAINST THE ARAB STATES IN HIS FEBRUARY 6 SPEECH. THE LEADING ALGIERS DAILY WROTE ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT "WASHINGTON IS PREPARING TO LAUNCH A DANGEROUS

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ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE WIDESPREAD CONSEQUENCES BY SUBMITTING

. . . A PROGRAM OF ACTION DIRECTED AGAINST THE ARABS."

ALGERIA IS DEVOTING ITS PRIMARY ATTENTION TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE OAPEC MEETING IN TRIPOLI ON FEBRUARY 14 AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING THE SPECIAL UN MEETING ON RAW MATERIALS IT CALLED FOR LAST MONTH. BOTH STEPS ARE APPARENTLY VIEWED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS SERIOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO COUNTER PRESSURE FROM CAPITALIST CONSUMER COUNTRIES.

OPEC: ON FEBRUARY 13 THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES CRITICIZED THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, SAYING THAT THE FORMATION OF ANY GROUP OF ADVANCED CONSUMING NATIONS WOULD LEAD TO "CONFRONTATION." (HE DID NOT SPECIFY THE RETALIATION HIS GROUP WOULD SEEK IF THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD FORM AN ORGANIZATION.) HE ALSO SAID THAT "WASHINGTON IS THE WRONG PLACE TO DISCUSS THE OIL ISSUE," AND THAT IT "WOULD HAVE MADE MORE SENSE" TO GO TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. HE NOTED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, BUT BELIEVES HIS VIEWS REFLECT THOSE OF OTHER OPEC MEMBERS IN SPITE OF THEIR

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OF THEIR STATEMENTS THAT THEY DO NOT REGARD THE MEETING AS A THREAT.

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